(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and by when it is likely to be practically implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) to (c) Tourist information on Chitrakoot is hosted on the website of Ministry of Tourism— www. incredibleindia.org

Private and public investments in tourism sector

†2318. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government propose to formulate a new scheme for increasing private and public investments in tourism sector;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether anytarget has been fixed by Government in this regard; and

(d)if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism has a scheme of 'Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects' for increasing private public partnership/investments in tourism sector for taking up projects like tourist trains, cruise terminals, convention centres, golf courses etc. under which assistance is released on the basis of project proposals received and prioritized by the Ministry of Tourism. An amount of Rs. 30 crore has been allocated in the Plan Budget 2005-06 for this scheme.

The Ministry of Finance has come out with a Viability Gap Funding Scheme to assist Large Tourism Infrastructure Projects like International Convention Centres, etc. through Public Private Partnership mode.

New National Tourism Policy

†2319. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism is an important source of revenue

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

generation and Government have announced a new National Tourism Policy for this purpose; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Tourism is a major social phenomenon of the modern society with enormous economic consequences. Its importance as an instrument for economic development and employment generation has now been well recognised the world over. The existing Tourism Policy was announced by the Government in the year 2002 to provide a framework for development of tourism in the country with trie objective of reaping the socio-economic benefits of the sector.

(b) The Policy aims to position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel and trade, and the vast untapped potential of India as a destination. The Policy, also aims to:

position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;

acknowledge the critical role of private sector, with Government working as a pro-active facilitator and catalyst;

reate and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage, and culture in partnership with states and private sector, and

ensure that the tourists to India get physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched, spiritually elevated and "feel India fromwithin".

After the announcement of the policy, the activites of the Ministry are prioritized and guided as per the policy document.

Development of tourism in Lucknow

†2320. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for development of tourism in Lucknow;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.